

STATE OF COLORADO

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HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION
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**Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment**

April 19, 2001

Mr. Joseph A. Legare
Assistant Manager for Environment and Infrastructure
U.S. Department of Energy
Rocky Flats Field Office
10808 Highway 93, Unit A
Golden, Colorado 80403-8200

Dear Mr. Legare:

RE: Site Wide Water Balance Update Meeting

We appreciate the time and effort Chris Dayton and the project support staff have put into public participation. The integrated model they are developing is a significant contribution to information needed for site decision-making. We support the choice of MIKE SHE for the modeling work.

The current model scope is a regional model, an appropriate place to start the modeling effort with natural hydrogeologic boundaries. Because of the complexity of the model code which integrates climatic and surface water processes the model grid cannot be refined to smaller grid cells in areas of interest such as the industrial area. The project staff has developed detailed information about the utility corridors, buildings and drains in the industrial area, which, at this point in the project, can only be incorporated in a general fashion within the 200-foot grid. The predictive capability of a model is based on the precision with which it can be calibrated; we believe the calibration of this model in the industrial area will be limited by the selected grid spacing. Once the regional model is established, MIKE SHE has the capability to be refined into a smaller area model using the larger model information as boundary conditions, referred to as a telescoped model. However the telescoped model is not part of the current project scope.

We believe that continuation of this modeling work beyond the current scope will be extremely useful in answering questions and reducing uncertainties in closing and cleaning up the Industrial Area. It should also be useful as a tool for other long-term stewardship issues. John Stover of your staff indicated that



ADMIN RECORD

SW-A-004286

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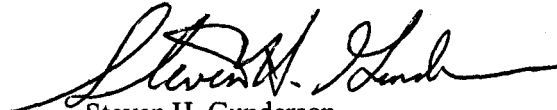
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Mr. Joseph Legare

Site Wide Water Balance Update Meeting

DOE has also recognized the benefits of doing additional modeling beyond the current project scope. We strongly agree with John's statement and urge DOE's continued support of this effort. Should your staff have questions about these comments please contact Elizabeth Pottorff at 303-692-3429 or Richard Horstmann at 303-692-3377.

Sincerely,



Steven H. Gunderson

Rocky Flats Project Coordinator

SHG/ETP/etp

cc: Tim Rehder, EPA
Dave Shelton, KH
Mary Harlow, Westminster
Shirley Garcia, Broomfield
John Marler, RFCLOG
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Administrative Records, Building 850